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Kuipers praises Cox's charter schools opinion

LANSING – Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, today applauded Attorney General Mike Cox's opinion that SB 393, which allows more charter schools statewide, is now state law.

"I'm glad to see Bob Thompson can go ahead with his plan to help give Detroit schoolchildren more choices to secure an education and a future," Kuipers said. "Now I hope Senate and House leaders can work with the governor to create a more comprehensive package."

Philanthropist Robert Thompson has pledged to spend \$200 million to build 15 new charter high schools in Detroit. SB 393 allows the city and state to take advantage of the money.

Kuipers said the confusion from Gov. Granholm's administration and its willingness to side with special-interests has threatened to leave thousands of Detroit schoolchildren in substandard schools.

SB 393 allows charter schools to borrow money and issues bonds. The overall charter school cap is not raised and there are no new accountability measures for established charter schools. Increased accountability is included for the 15 new urban high school academies.

In issuing the opinion, Cox used the Michigan Constitution and three similar rulings by the previous Democratic attorney general. An opinion from the state attorney general carries the force of law unless overturned by a court.